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LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b)(i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 10 June 1997, the Government of Iraq denied a Commission inspection team access to a site designated for inspection. On 12 June 1997, access to two further designated sites was denied. The Commission's staff informed the Iraqi representatives that these denials were in violation of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions, the Joint Programme of Action and the modalities for inspection of sensitive sites. This was acknowledged by the Iraqi officials who, nonetheless, confirmed the refusal of access, stating they were doing so on the highest authority.

I am awaiting the full details from the Chief Inspectors of the inspection teams involved of the events surrounding these denials before presenting a full report to the Council. However, in the light of the events recorded in the first paragraph, the Commission is concerned that a decision has been taken by the Government of Iraq to prevent full implementation of the Commission's mandate.

I would be most grateful if you could bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I will be ready, at the middle of next week, to present an oral report to the Council with all the necessary details, if the Council so wishes.

(Signed) Rolf EKÉUS
Executive Chairman

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